



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 23, 2003

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This is in response to your letter dated December 12, 2002, to Attorney General Ashcroft seeking the appointment of a special counsel to take over an investigation of certain Democratic political officials in Wayne County and Detroit, Michigan, and alleging that the investigation being conducted by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan "has taken on the appearance of a partisan vendetta."

I have been advised that you have met with First Assistant United States Attorney Alan M. Gershel about your concerns and that at the conclusion of the meeting you advised him that you were satisfied that this was not a politically-motivated investigation. Additionally, I want to reassure you that prosecutorial decisions by the Department of Justice are made based upon the law and the facts and not for partisan political reasons.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we can be of assistance in other matters.

Sincerely,

Jamie E. Brown
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary